

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 7, 2006, the Examiner imposed a Requirement for Information under 37 CFR 1.105. Therein, the Examiner directed Applicant to disclose all co-pending applications and related patents that may be related to the current application. The undersigned has made reasonable inquiries to those identified under §1.56(c) and the assignee of the present application. Responsive thereto, Applicant has listed below those co-pending applications and patents believed to be relevant to examination of the current application.

The Examiner also directed Applicant to “identify the specific claims of those [related] applications and/or patents which may present double patenting issues with the instant application claims.” *Office Action, June 7, 2006, p. 2*. Applicant respectfully believes that imposing such a burden on a patent applicant is not proper and is overly broad. MPEP 704.11(a) lists examples of information reasonably required to be provided by an applicant. At most, it appears that subsection (G) is most closely relevant to this issue, which states that information required for examination may include “[i]dentification of pending or abandoned applications filed by at least one of the inventors or assigned to the same assignee as the current application that disclose similar subject matter that are not otherwise identified in the current application.” *MPEP 704.11(a)(G)*. 704.11(a) does not authorize an examiner to require an applicant to identify specific claims in those related applications and/or patents. Applicant respectfully believes that such a requirement shifts the examiner’s responsibilities to the applicant.

Below is a list of co-pending applications and related patents that Applicant believes are relevant to examination of the present application. While others may exist, they are unknown to those most knowledgeable with the content of the present application.

Co-pending Applications and Related Patents

10/765,618 (US 2005/0089137 A1)
10/765,617 (US 2005/0089136 A1)
10/765,582 (US 2005/0089135 A1)
10/605,789 (US 2005/0089146 A1)
10/935,292 (US 2005/0031084 A1)
10/064,172 (US 2003/0198319 A1)
10/063,366 (US 2003/0195416 A1)
US 6,993,117 B2
US 6,990,171 B2
US 6,836,535 B2

11/164,121 (Not published). This application has not been included in the attached IDS as it is not an issued patent or publication, but Applicant wishes to bring it to the Examiner's attention.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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